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FOREIGN AND INSULAR

ARABIA.

MASKAT—Ports of Maskat and Muttra free from Cholera.

The American consul reported December 20 to the Department of State that the ports of Maskat and Muttra were officially declared free from cholera December 20.

CHINA.

AMOY—Plague in Vicinity.

Acting Asst. Surg. Bonthius reports December 21: Plague in the bubonic and pneumonic forms continues actively present in the interior.

MANCHURIA—Status of Plague.

Minister Rockhill at St. Petersburg, Russia, reported January 12 to the Department of State:

A bulletin issued December 30, 1910, by the plague commission shows 491 cases of plague with 488 deaths among Chinese in the radius allotted to the Chinese Eastern Railroad from the beginning of the outbreak to December 23, 1910.

Consul Greene at Harbin reports December 31:

Plague appears to have been entirely eradicated at Manchuria station and the other localities along the western division of the Chinese Eastern Railroad, in which it has been present. The epidemic has, however, assumed alarming proportions among the Chinese in Fuchiatien and in the business section of Harbin known as the Pristan. The statistical record of the epidemic is still incomplete, chiefly because doubtful cases have not been followed up from day to day to determine if they should be reported as plague. According to the most reliable information available, the number of deaths from plague which has occurred at Fuchiatien and Harbin from the appearance of the disease on November 8 and 9, respectively, to November 28, is as follows: Fuchiatien, deaths 78, including 32 corpses found in streets and houses; Harbin, deaths 182; total, 260.

About two-thirds of these deaths occurred during the past two weeks. It is stated on Chinese medical authority that there have lately been about 20 deaths daily at Fuchiatien. On December 28 there were reported 28 deaths at Fuchiatien.

In Harbin, including corpses found on the street, there have averaged lately about 10 deaths daily, but on December 28 I was informed by a Russian officer that 32 bodies of plague victims had been sent that day for burial in the special cemetery set apart for the purpose. Up to December 29 the number of cases and deaths

on the railway lands in North Manchuria, which would include Harbin, but not Fuchiatien, according to reports of the railway company, was as follows:

	Dec. 14 to 29.		Total since beginning, Oct. 25, 1910.	
	New cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.
Chinese.....	38	36	522	520
Russians.....			11	10
Total.....	38	36	533	530

These figures do not include dead bodies found by the sanitary authorities, presumably because in many of these cases the real cause of death was not determined.

While the Russians have followed up the disease energetically within the railway settlement, and have carefully isolated all suspicious cases, while keeping under observation in railway cars and other places all persons known to have come in contact with plague patients, their efforts can have little effect so long as present conditions prevail in Fuchiatien, where up to this time there has been no central authority to enforce the necessary preventive measures. The Japanese physician sent by the viceroy at Mukden did not begin systematic operations until a week ago, as he could do nothing until he was supplied with the necessary equipment and authority. No thorough system has been applied of isolating doubtful cases, or of observing persons who have been in contact with actual cases. Very often, while the patient is removed to the hospital, the other inmates of the house succeed in escaping. The result is that the infection has been spread all over Fuchiatien and the Pristan, and reports are now coming in of an alarming number of deaths at Hulan and other neighboring towns. At this time of year when the roads of Manchuria are at their best, there is a great volume of traffic between all the important trade centers which bids fair to carry the plague all over North Manchuria, no matter how successful the Chinese Eastern Railway may be in preventing its being communicated by means of the railway.

On December 21 the assistant director of the Imperial Army Medical College at Tientsin arrived to take charge of the campaign against plague at Fuchiatien. He is a graduate of a British medical school, with special training in bacteriology and in the handling of epidemics. He is now assisted by one Japanese and two Chinese physicians, all trained in modern medical schools, besides eight Chinese and Japanese hospital assistants of some experience. In a few days he expects five more physicians, two of whom are British and three Chinese, together with ten of his senior students from Tientsin. He says that he has now a fairly satisfactory isolation hospital for suspected cases which will accommodate about 80 patients, and observation quarters for about 200 persons.

At present the Russian authorities at Harbin propose as a protection against outside infection to divert all traffic between Fuchiatien

and Harbin into certain roads where health officers will inspect wayfarers and stop those who are evidently sick. Chinese passengers arriving and departing by rail in third and fourth class cars are being carefully inspected at the Harbin station, the admission of Chinese laborers into the maritime and trans-Baikal Provinces is prohibited and quarantine is required for all other Chinese passengers entering the Russian dominions. A Russian plague expert arrived December 20 to inspect the sanitary work being carried out at Harbin and suggest additional measures.

CUBA.

Transmissible Diseases in the Island.

Acting Asst. Surg. Villoldo, at Habana, reports, January 24:

The following statement of transmissible diseases in the island of Cuba was issued by the national department of sanitation:

MONTH OF NOVEMBER, 1910.

Diseases.	New cases.	Deaths.	Remain- ing under treat- ment.
Tuberculosis.....	142	209	2,707
Leprosy.....	4	2	344
Malaria.....	362	29	208
Typhoid fever.....	58	8	47
Diphtheria.....	96	12	40
Scarlet fever.....	21	18
Measles.....	142	5	80
Varicella.....	3	3
Tetanus in the new born.....	16	16

MONTH OF DECEMBER, 1910.

Tuberculosis.....	172	246	2,611
Leprosy.....	6	7	343
Malaria.....	195	17	183
Typhoid fever.....	46	8	48
Diphtheria.....	97	11	27
Scarlet fever.....	31	2	23
Measles.....	316	5	207
Varicella.....	12	9
Tetanus in the new born.....	14	14

No quarantinable diseases were reported in the island during the week ended January 24, 1911.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

Santo Domingo—Port Sanitary Regulations.

Consul Russell reports, December 24, 1910:

The central board of health of Santo Domingo has recently passed the following regulations:

1. The disembarkation of any person suffering from leprosy or trachoma is prohibited.
2. Pratique shall be denied to any vessel having on board a case of cholera, plague, smallpox, or typhus fever, or having been in communication with a port in which the diseases named were present.